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ATHERSTONE *Warrington*
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORTS

of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
and of the
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR
1956



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BAXTERS OF ATHERSTONE LTD., MARKET STREET, ATHERSTONE

GEOGRAPHICAL SITUATION OF THE DISTRICT

The Rural District of Atherstone lies practically in the centre of England, in the northern part of the County of Warwickshire. High ground rises to the west forming a lovely range of hills in places about 500 feet in height.

The busy trunk road known as Watling Street (A5) passes through the town of Atherstone and the middle of the rural district, as also does the main London-Crewe railway line and the Coventry Canal.

Atherstone is of great antiquity. Indisputable evidence of Roman association has been discovered from time to time. At the beginning of Norman times Atherstone appears to have been well established, and was entered in the Domesday Book as Aderstone.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND OCCUPATIONS

The interests of Atherstone have always been industrial, commercial and agricultural. Coal mining and hat manufacturing are the principal industries, whilst there are also brick, pipe and tile works, engineering works and other minor industries. Splendid opportunities exist for the introduction of new as well as for the extension of some of the older industries.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

at 31st December, 1956

Chairman:

Councillor J. SANDERS

Vice-Chairman:

Councillor P. HASTINGS.

Councillors:

Mrs. D. M. Phillips, Mrs. C. Rose, Mrs. S. A. Wood, Mr. E. Bond,
Mr. W. H. Knight, Mr. W. A. Brown, Mr. G. S. Collins, Mr. E. Dingley,
Mr. P. J. Luby, Mr. J. F. McCarthy, Mr. E. W. Mellor, Mr. A. Morris,
Mr. T. A. Sharpe, Mr. T. Smith, Mr. A. L. Standley, Mr. F. S. Turner.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

J. H. BRISCOE-SMITH, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

G. HIRD, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent:

S. B. ACTON, M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Public Health Inspector:

R. A. MARGOSCHIS, M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector:

P. HIBBERT, M.A.P.H.I.

Clerical Assistant:

PAMELA A. WEBB

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNCIL OFFICES,
ATHERSTONE.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE ATHERSTONE
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1956.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS:—

The birth date for 1956 shows no change from that recorded in 1955, and as I pointed out last year there has been little variation in the number of births in the Rural District over the past seven years.

Deaths in 1956, decreased by 49 as compared with the previous year, due largely to a reduction in deaths from cancer. These fell from 53 in 1955 to 33 in 1956. Such a fall is contrary to the general trend in the country as a whole. It is interesting to note that there were 6 deaths, among men, due to cancer of the lung, an increase of one over the previous year. This means that deaths from malignant disease of the lungs accounted for 33% of all male cancer deaths in 1956 as compared with 17% in 1955.

INFANT MORTALITY RATE:—

This rate, as shown in the Table on page 9, had fallen steadily over the past 14 years and this is especially noticeable when one considers the five year averages shown in the final column of the Table. This rate of 20.9 for 1956 is well below that for England and Wales, which was 23.8. There were 8 infant deaths and all of these occurred in the first four weeks of life. Four of the deaths were attributable to congenital defects, two to prematurity and one to birth injury. The remaining death was recorded as due to broncho pneumonia at the age of 16 hours. This last is the one which can be said to be due to infection, and, even in this case in view of the early death of the infant, some other undiscovered contributory factor may have been present.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES:—

The Table of page 10 shows that the incidence of measles and whooping cough was exceptionally low during the year. This was to be expected in the case of measles in view of the very severe epidemic in 1955, in which a large proportion of the susceptible children in the population were infected. In the case of whooping cough there is no such explanation, although with immunisation against this disease we can expect a gradual diminution in the number of cases notified each year.

There was only one small outbreak of food poisoning affecting two persons. This was almost certainly due to eating lightly cooked duck eggs. These eggs, unlike the hen's egg, are often infected by an organism called *Salmonella Typhi-murium*, found most commonly in the droppings of rats and mice. The duck, because of the shape of its beak, shovels up its food from the ground, often mixed with such droppings. This leads to infection which can enter the eggs before they are laid. The public cannot be reminded too often that duck eggs are dangerous unless they are hard boiled or very thoroughly cooked in some other way.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL:—

The Council are fully aware of the unsatisfactory condition of a number of sewage disposal plants throughout the Rural District and have in the past made strenuous efforts to remedy the position. It is encouraging to record that during 1956 the new Atherstone Sewage Works, together with the pumping stations and sewers, was completed, and that a new sewage works at Ridge Lane was brought into operation. In addition, the Birchley Heath Sewage Disposal Scheme made good progress and was almost completed at the end of the year. It is hoped that permission will soon be granted for the Council to proceed with a comprehensive scheme to deal with sewage disposal in Polesworth, Dordon, Warton and Birchmoor. This scheme was submitted to the Minister and a public enquiry was held during 1956.

There is serious pollution of watercourses throughout the country and Atherstone Rural District is no exception. The recent and proposed schemes will not remove this pollution, in fact much of the contamination arises outside the District. They do, however, represent a considerable step forward, and the Council has expressed intention to press for similar improvements at all sewage works where conditions are unsatisfactory.

SLUM CLEARANCE:—

Good progress was made with the Slum Clearance Programme during the year. While only 18 houses were actually demolished and a further 12 closed as a result of action under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, some 91 houses were included in several Clearance Areas represented to the Council, all of which have since been confirmed by the Minister. The Council also made good progress in rehousing the tenants of the 41 temporary hutments which were still occupied in the Merevale Camp; this last programme was completed in March, 1957.

To sum up, the year was one in which the health of the residents in the Rural District was good and in which steady progress was made in the improvement of environmental conditions.

Finally, I wish to express my thanks to my medical colleagues both general practitioners and medical officers in hospitals, to the officials of the Council for their co-operation, and to the Staff of the Health Department for their continued help.

May I also express my gratitude to you, Mr. Chairman, and to the Members of the Council for your unfailing consideration and support.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Your obedient Servant,

J. H. BRISCOE-SMITH,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT

Area in acres	21,945
Population, census, 1931	21,847
Population, census, 1951	23,662
Intercensal increase in population	1,815
Population (mid-year estimate) 1956	24,560
Number of inhabited houses (V.L. January, 1956)	7,413
Density of population, i.e. number of persons per acre, 1956	1.11
Number of persons per dwelling, 1956	3.30
Rateable value of District	£221,579
Sum represented by penny rate	£838
Excess of males over females (at Census)	416
Parish Population, Estimated 1951—	

Parish	Males	Females	Total
Ansley	1,063	1,016	2,079
Atherstone	2,919	3,001	5,920
Baddesley Ensor	833	747	1,580
Baxterley	195	166	361
Bentley	104	33	187
Caldecote	81	45	126
Grendon	860	809	1,669
Hartshill	1,402	1,378	2,780
Mancetter	978	954	1,932
Merevale	93	120	213
Oldbury	33	39	72
Polesworth	2,086	1,886	3,972
Dordon	1,437	1,336	2,771
			<hr/> 23,662 <hr/>

VITAL STATISTICS—

	Male	Female	Total
Live Births	202	197	399
Legitimate	192	190	382
Illegitimate	10	7	17
Birth Rate			16.2
Comparability Factor			0.96
Corrected Birth Rate			15.6
Still-births	5	10	15
Rate per 1,000 births			39.0
Deaths	123	103	226
Death Rate			9.2
Correction Factor			1.19
Corrected Death Rate			10.9
Neo-Natal Deaths			
(under 1 month)	4	4	8
Legitimate	4	4	8
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Infant Deaths			
(4 weeks to 12 months)	—	—	—
Legitimate	—	—	—
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Infant Mortality Rate			20.9
Legitimate			20.9
Illegitimate			—

NUMBER OF DEATHS FOR THE YEAR OF 1956

<i>Cause of Death</i>						<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female</i>
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	..	3	1
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	—	1
3.	Syphilitic disease	..	...	...	...	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—
5.	Whooping cough	...	...	...	...	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...	—	—
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	..	...	...	...	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	..	...	...	2	3
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	6	—
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	—	2
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	—	2
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	10	8
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	—	—
16.	Diabetes	..	...	...	...	—	2
17.	Vascular lesion of nervous system	...	...	...	...	16	26
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	..	...	...	27	17
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	..	...	3	3
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	..	...	9	6
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	5	6
22.	Influenza	..	...	...	...	1	1
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	2	4
24.	Bronchitis	..	...	...	...	10	—
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	..	...	...	4	2
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	..	...	2	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	—	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	1	1
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	1	2
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	..	...	...	10	12
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	3	1
34.	All other accidents	..	...	...	...	4	2
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	2	—
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	—	—
						123	103
Total						226	

BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE AND INFANTILE MORTALITY IN ATHERSTONE

Year	No. of Births	Crude Birth Rate	No. of Deaths	Crude Death Rate	Infantile Mortality Rate	Average 5 years.		
						Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infantile Mortality Rate
1943	424	19.3	213	9.7	49.5	20.8	10.3	44.4
1944	464	21.2	239	10.9	40.9			
1945	460	21.2	210	9.7	45.7			
1946	487	21.8	241	10.8	47.2			
1947	466	20.7	229	10.2	38.6			
1948	452	19.3	222	9.5	28.8	17.5	9.9	32.1
1949	428	18.1	233	9.8	28.0			
1950	396	16.7	206	8.7	30.3			
1951	397	16.8	252	10.7	35.3			
1952	392	16.6	258	10.9	38.3			
1953	409	17.2	272	11.5	39.1			
1954	425	17.4	225	9.2	16.5			
1955	397	16.2	275	11.2	37.8			
1956	399	16.2	226	9.2	20.9			

INQUESTS.

	Males	Females	Total
No. of sudden deaths report to Coroner	19	13	32
No. of Inquests	12	4	16
No. of Post Mortem examinations ...	13	9	22
Certified cause of death:—	Males	Females	Total
(a) Natural causes	8	10	18
(b) Misadventure	2	1	3
(c) Suicide whilst of unsound mind ...	2	—	2
(d) Found Drowned	1	—	1
(e) Accidental	6	2	8
(f) Stillborn	—	—	—
	19	13	32

BIRTHS.

The number of registered births for 1956 was 399. This was an increase of 2 over the number recorded in 1955. The birth rate was at its highest (21.8 per 1,000 population) in 1946, and fell year by year to 16.6 in 1952. The birth rate for 1956 is 16.2 per 1,000 population and is greater than that for England and Wales 15.7 per 1,000.

DEATHS.

The number of deaths registered during the year was 226, giving a crude death rate of 9.2 per 1,000 of the population.

The standardised death rate for Atherstone is 10.9, the factor for correction being 1.19.

The 1956 death rate for England and Wales was 11.7 and for Warwickshire Administrative County and County Boroughs 11.19 per 1,000 of the population.

The Table on page 9 shows death rates for Atherstone district over the past fourteen years.

The diseases and conditions giving rise to the majority of the deaths over the last five years are:—

	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Diseases of the heart and blood vessels	101	89	73	90	76
Cerebral haemorrhage ..	42	55	35	37	42
Cancer	30	39	33	53	33
Violence, accidents and suicide	13	28	28	25	12

INFANT DEATHS.

8 deaths of infants under one year of age occurred during 1956, 4 were males and 4 were females.

The infantile mortality rate was 20.9 per 1,000 related live births. The rate for England and Wales was 23.8 and for Warwickshire Administrative County and County Boroughs 23.35 per 1,000 related live births.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The Table on page 12 shews the number of cases of notifiable infectious diseases which have occurred in Atherstone over the last ten years.

The following are the number of cases of infectious diseases notified by Medical Practitioners in the year ended 31st December, 1956.

	Males	Females	Total
Scarlet Fever	26	14	40
Whooping Cough	2	2	4
Measles	5	4	9
Acute Poliomyelitis:—			
Paralytic	—	—	—
Non-Paralytic	1	—	1
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—
Dysentery	10	17	27
Acute encephalitis	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia	19	9	28
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	1	1	2
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	—	—	—
Malaria:—			
Contracted Abroad	—	—	—
Indigenous	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—
	<hr/> 64	<hr/> 48	<hr/> 112

ANNUAL RETURN OF FOOD POISONING NOTIFICATIONS (Corrected)

APPENDIX D (i)

1. *Local Authority*: Atherstone Rural District Council—Year 1956.
2. *Food Poisoning Notifications (Corrected) Return to R.G.*

1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Total
—	—	2	—	2
3. *Outbreaks due to Identified Agents*:—

Total outbreaks—One.
Total cases—Two.

Outbreaks due to:—

 - (a) Chemical Poisons—Nil.
 - (b) Salmonella Organisms—One.
 - (c) Staphylococci (including toxin)—Nil.
 - (d) Cl. botulinum—Nil.
 - (e) Other bacteria—Nil.
4. *Outbreaks of Undiscovered Cause*:—

Total outbreaks—Nil.
Total cases—Nil.
5. *Single Cases*:—

Agent identified—Nil.
Unknown cause—Nil.
Total—Nil.

APPENDIX D (ii)

FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS (Summary of details)

1. *Food Causing Outbreaks*—Probably Duck Eggs.
Agent Causing Outbreak—Salmonella Typhimurium.
2. *Cases Forming Outbreak*:—
Total notified—Two. Total ascertained—Two. Fatal—Nil.
3. *Clinical Features*:—Average interval ingestion to onset (hrs.)—6.
Main symptoms, etc.: Diarrhoeæ and vomiting.
Severity of Illness: Not severe in one case.
Duration of illness: 3 and 7 days.
4. *Results of Laboratory Investigations (Summary)*:—
Cases—Two. Food Samples—Nil. Food Handlers—Nil.
Other—Nil.
5. *Origin and Preparation of Food Causing Illness*. At home (Farm).
6. *Place at which Food Causing Illness was Consumed*:—
Estimated number of consumers at risk. At home.
No. at risk there—Three.
7. *Probable Origin of Infection or Contamination of Food*:—
Contributory Factors—From duck eggs produced on own farm.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED 1947-1956

Disease	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Scarlet Fever ..	34	47	25	22	15	81	18	17	15	40
Whooping Cough ..	14	84	21	21	69	3	68	16	43	4
Measles ..	244	144	33	292	230	120	292	66	658	9
Acute Poliomyelitis:—										
Paralytic ..	3	—	—	1	—	—	8	—	1	—
Non-Paralytic ..	2	—	—	3	1	—	12	—	1	1
Diphtheria ..	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smallpox ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection ..	—	—	—	2	2	1	1	2	—	—
Acute Encephalitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ..	—	—	—	2	2	1	1	3	61	27
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	2	1
Acute Pneumonia ..	60	41	33	46	51	16	22	36	53	28
Paratyphoid Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Enteric or typhoid fever ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food poisoning ..	—	—	—	1	—	6	5	14	4	2
Malaria:—										
Contracted abroad ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Indigenous ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ..	3	3	1	1	1	2	3	4	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER

TABLE I

	MALES		FEMALES		Total
	Pul-monary	Non-Pul-monary	Pul-monary	Non-Pul-monary	
(a) Number of cases on Register at beginning of year	86	20	72	25	203
(b) Number of cases notified under Regulations of 1952 for first time in year ...	6	2	4	—	12
(c) Number of cases restored to Register...	—	—	—	—	—
(d) Number of cases added to Register otherwise than by formal notification ...	1	1	—	—	2
(e) Number of cases removed from Register during the year	7	1	13	4	25
(f) Number of cases re-remaining on Register on 31st December ...	86	22	63	21	192

SUMMARY OF CASES ON THE TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER 1948-1956

TABLE II

Year	Cases on Register			Notifications each year			Deaths		
	Pulm.	Pulm. Non-	Total	Pulm.	Pulm. Non-	Total	Pulm.	Pulm. Non-	Total
1948	103	33	136	33	4	37	10	1	11
1949	117	34	151	26	5	31	6	2	8
1950	123	36	159	18	5	23	10	1	11
1951	132	40	172	30	8	38	7	3	10
1952	146	47	193	28	12	40	6	2	8
1953	160	50	210	24	8	32	4	1	5
1954	174	49	223	29	2	31	3	—	3
1955	158	45	203	18	5	23	2	—	2
1956	149	43	192	11	3	14	4	1	5

LABORATORY FACILITIES

The Public Health Laboratory in Coventry accepts specimens sent for examination. Messrs. Bostock Hill & Rigby, Public Analysts, Birmingham, are also frequently employed by the Council.

A small supply of Diphtheria anti-toxin is held in the Health Department in the Council Offices and anti-toxin is also available from the Public Health Laboratory at Coventry and from the Hospitals.

THE GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICE

The General Practitioners Service is administered by the Warwickshire Executive Council; eight medical practitioners live in the district, but others living outside have extended their activities to cover parts of the district.

There are no general hospital services directly available within the district, but Out-patients and In-patients facilities are available at the Nuneaton and Tamworth hospitals. Cases of infectious diseases are usually admitted to Whitley Hospital, Coventry, and a small percentage of cases requiring special treatment are admitted to Birmingham Hospitals. The bed accommodation for Tuberculosis patients is largely provided for at Hertford Hill Sanatorium, Near Warwick, but various other Sanatoria within the Birmingham Hospital Region are also used. Out-patients facilities are available at the Dispensary, Market Street, Atherstone, each Monday by appointment.

The Warwickshire County Council are responsible for the administration of the School Health Service, and for arrangements for Domiciliary Nursing, Domestic Helps, Vaccination and Immunisation, the care of Mothers and Young Children, the Prevention of Illness, Care and After Care and the Ambulance Service as laid down in Part III of the National Health Service Act, 1946. With the exception of the Ambulance Service, the day by day administration of these services is under the control of the Area Medical Officer of Health, Council House, Nuneaton. The Ambulance Depot is at Swan Farm, Watling Street, Grendon.

A General Purposes Clinic is situated in Station Street, Atherstone. Infant Welfare and School Clinics are held in and conducted in these premises and sessions are held at which the Speech Therapist, Dentist and Eye Specialist attend. A school Dental Officer covers Bedworth and Atherstone and is at present devoting two full days a week to treatment.

INFANT WELFARE SERVICE

Station Street, Atherstone	Infant Welfare Clinic	Wednesdays (2-4 p.m.)
Church Hall, Ansley	..	Wednesdays (2-4 p.m.)
Village Hall, Dordon	..	Alternate Mondays (2-4 p.m.)
Parish Hall, Polesworth	..	Alternate Tuesdays (2-4 p.m.)
Wesleyan Hall, Baddesley	..	Alternate Fridays (2-4 p.m.)

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

Station Street, Atherstone	Minor Ailments Clinic	Wednesdays (9-12 noon)
..	Ophthalmic Clinic	Mondays a.m. Monthly by appointment
..	Speech Therapy Clinic	Mondays p.m. Monthly by appointment
..	Orthopaedic Exercises Clinic	Tuesdays p.m. by appointment
..	Dental Clinic	Tuesdays and Fridays all day by appointment
Nursing Home, Polesworth	Minor Ailments Clinic	Alternate Tuesdays 9 a.m.
Nurses Home, Hartshill	Minor Ailments	Daily (8.30-9 a.m.)

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNCIL OFFICES,
ATHERSTONE.

June, 1957.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF
THE ATHERSTONE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my fourteenth Annual Report on my part of the work of the Public Health Department.

The year 1956 was, in my view, as a public health administrator, a generally satisfactory one.

Progress was particularly made in three fields. In their rightful public health order these are:—

1. "*Slum*" Clearance.—The post-War resumption of which was a direct result of the Government's 1955 decision on Housing Subsidies (See pages 17 and 18 for details).
2. *Refuse Collection and Disposal*.—In July, 1956, the Council extended the Incentive Bonus Scheme to all employees then retained. Pages 22 to 25 cover this Service.
3. *Rats and Mice Destruction*.—Near the end of the year, a Scheme which I formulated for Contract Rats and Mice Destruction with coverage of the whole of the District was approved by the Council. As a result of the success of the Council's operations, the Warwickshire Agricultural Executive Committee soon decided not to renew on expiry any Rat Destruction Contracts held by them in our Area.

The Report, as usual, deals with our other varied duties and concludes with a list of works done following action from this Department.

It was not found necessary to take legal proceedings during the year, but extensive repairs were carried out by the Council to six private houses, owing to default of the owners.

It is not generally known, and therefore not appreciated by the public, that your Health Department Staff, or some member of it, is on duty and call seven days each week. One constant service is given throughout the year on every Sunday, when an average of thirty carcasses and offals of locally slaughtered food animals are inspected, primarily to protect the public against the sale of diseased meat and secondly to meet the exigencies of the butchering trade.

On pages 34 to 37 you will find the Annual Report relative to this District of Mr. J. S. Preston, Weights and Measures Inspector of the Warwickshire County Council. This Report he has kindly sent for inclusion and, together with the resumé of our activities, it completes the picture of local action taken to ensure the purity and fitness of food, drink and drugs.

I wish to express my appreciation of the assistance and support which I have received from the Chairman of the Public Health Committee (Mr. Councillor J. Sanders, J.P.) and from the Chairman of the Housing Committee (Mr. Councillor W. Bailey, J.P.), and in conclusion wish to thank Mr. R. A. Margoschis (Deputy), Mr. P. Hibbert (Additional) and Miss P. Webb (Clerk) for their loyal and conscientious work throughout the year, for their endeavours have provided the greater part of the material for the Report.

Commending this Report to your notice,

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

SYDNEY B. ACTON,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

HOUSING

Since the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, came into force in August, 1954, a total of only three applications for Certificates of Disrepair have been received, two in 1955 and one in 1956. Certificates were granted in all three cases and they are still in force.

Part II (Repairs Increase) of that Act has been particularly useless in this District and very few property owners have attempted to increase rents under its provisions. This has been evident from the few applications received for Certificates of Disrepair and also from the few enquiries made on the provisions of the Act. Had there been much use of the powers contained, we would have been inundated with applications for Disrepair Certificates, for it was found in 1947 that 72.4% of privately owned houses in the District of £16 and under rateable value were suffering from defects. This percentage has since tended to increase owing to repair charges being out of proportion with rentals.

The following Table is made up from four quarterly returns which were sent to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in 1956.

HOUSES IN CLEARANCE AREAS AND UNFIT HOUSES ELSEWHERE

Return for Year ended 31st December, 1956

A. HOUSES DEMOLISHED	HOUSES DEMOLISHED		DISPLACED during Year	
	Unfit	Others	Persons	Families
<i>In Clearance Areas</i> (Housing Act, 1956, and Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1945)				
(1) Land coloured pink and hatched yellow	—	—	9	3
(2) Land coloured grey	—	—	—	—
<i>Not in Clearance Areas</i>				
(3) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 11 Housing Act, 1936	18	—	60	21
B. UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED		Number		
(4) Under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936, and Section 10(1) and 11(2), Local Govt.(Misc.Prov.) Act, 1953		16	22	8
(5) Under Sections 3(1) and 3(2) Housing Act, 1949		—	—	—
(6) Parts of buildings closed under under Section 12, Housing Act, 1936		—	—	—
C. UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT AND HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED			By Owner	By L.A.
(7) After informal action by local authority ...			105	—
(8) After formal notice under (a) P.H. Acts ...			18	—
(b) H.A. 1936 ...			24	6
(9) Under Section 5, Housing Repairs & Rent Act, 1954			—	—
D. UNFIT HOUSES IN TEMPORARY USE (Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954)				
Position at end of year		Number of Houses	Number of separate dwelling in column (1)	(2)
(10) Retailed for temporary accommodation		(1)	(2)	
(a) under Section 2		—	—	
(b) under Section 3		—	—	
(c) under Section 4		—	—	
(11) Licensed for temporary occupation under Section 6		—	—	
			Number of Number occupants of Houses	Number of of houses in column (1) (2)
(12) Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders, purchased in the Year			(1)	(2)
			—	—

In July, 1956, seven Clearance Areas involving 91 premises in the Atherstone Parish were prepared. Four of the resulting Clearance Orders, to which there were no objections, were confirmed without amendment in December, 1956, and February, 1957.

On the 1st January, 1957, a Public Local Inquiry was held into the other three Clearance Areas of 20, 17 and 11 premises respectively. Objections had been received regarding two dwellings only in each area. The Clearance Orders in respect of these three Areas were confirmed in March, 1957, with an amendment that two dwellings, which had been included in one of the Clearance Orders, and which were subject to Closing Orders made under the Miscellaneous Provisions Act, should be determined by separate Demolition Orders.

Also in July, 1956, thirty-one Section 11 Notices were served in respect of other dwellings in the Atherstone Parish. This action was followed by the making of 19 Demolition Orders and 12 Closing Orders.

The Ministry had informed us in 1955 that they wished for the dis-use of the Merevale Camp, wherein there were 41 occupied temporary hutments, converted in 1950 from a P.O.W. Camp. In 1956, it was decided to dis-use the Camp. The last of the tenants was re-housed in March, 1957.

In 1939, there were 708 Council houses in the District. Since the War, 1,219 further Council houses have been completed, making a total of 1,927 to date. A further 174 are approved or under construction on the Atherstone North Site.

There are no Council houses in the Parishes of Bentley, Caldecote, Merevale and Oldbury, which are our most rural. The 1,927 Council Houses are in the following Parishes:—

Atherstone—500 ;	Ansley—156 ;	Baddesley	Ensor—202 ;
Baxterley—24 ;	Dordon—135 ;	Grendon—15 ;	Hartshill—131 ;
Hartshill—131 ;	Mancetter—416 ;	and	Polesworth—348.

Mr. J. Watts, our Housing and Rating Officer, has given me the following figures:—

No. of lodger-applicants on the Council's Waiting Lists ...	385
No. of tenant-applicants on the Council's Waiting Lists ...	437
	<hr/>
	822
	<hr/>

The number of new Council houses completed and tenanted in the year 1956 was only 23.

WATER SUPPLIES

Council owned sources of water for mains distribution are:—

1. District Pumping Station, Warton, where there are two boreholes which are 335 and 301 feet deep.
2. Shallow well at Bramcote, Polesworth, with a horizontal bore driven into Keele Sandstone.
3. Ansley Pumping Station, where there is a 70ft. deep well fed by three horizontal bores.

The three above-named pumping stations are each provided with chlorinating apparatus which was installed in 1949.

Other sources of Council main water are:—

1. Deep well at Baddesley Colliery, owned by the National Coal Board. (About 120,000 gallons per day purchased). This supply is filtered but not chlorinated.
2. Water from Oldbury Reservoir (Reservoir completed 1954 under Nuneaton-Atherstone Water Supply Scheme) to Hartshill and part Ansley Parish. First stage of supply, due for extension to other Parishes in due time. Source is R. Blythe, Birmingham Corporation being controlling authority.
3. Supply to some twenty premises in Caldecote Parish from tappings off Nuneaton Borough Council's Supply from Leicester.
4. Metered supplies from a convenient Nuneaton Borough Council main to thirty-odd dwellings at Tuttle Hill.

In the year ended 31st March, 1957, 187,377,000 gallons of water were pumped from our own sources and 62,575,000 gallons were purchased from the other sources enumerated above.

In the Atherstone Rural District there are only 164 dwellings which are not supplied with Council mainwater.

Twenty years ago the average domestic consumption of water per head of population per day was 12·843 gallons, and at that time consumption of water per head of population per day for all purposes (domestic, agricultural, trade, etc.) was 14·960 gallons. To-day these figures are almost doubled by respective water consumptions of 23·210 and 27·860 gallons per head per day.

During 1956, sixty-four samples of Council main water were submitted for bacteriological examination to the Public Health Laboratories, Coventry.

Fifteen of the samples were of water from Baddesley Colliery, especially regular reports on which I consider necessary owing to the absence of chlorinating plant. On all occasions the bacteriological examination results were satisfactory.

Forty-one samples were taken in various parts of the District of waters from Council owned sources. In only three cases were there suspicious results. Repeat sampling led me to conclude that the suspicious samples had been contaminated during taking or that the bottles were not sterile.

Eight samples of the water from Oldbury Reservoir were taken in Hartshill Parish. Plate counts were over twenty in four cases, but there was absence of coliform bacilli. Nuneaton Council had also found confirming bacterial counts in water from the same source. Increased chlorination provided the cure.

Two chemical examinations of water from Baddesley Colliery, which were carried out by the Public Analyst, shewed the water to be of good quality and suitable for use for a public supply.

Two samples of mains water stored in tanks in two Mobile Snack Bars were found to be satisfactory.

Waters from five shallow wells supplying six outlying premises were submitted to bacteriological examinations. In four cases the results shewed the waters to be unfit. One of the premises now has main water laid on. The other three are not accessible to Council mains and the occupiers have been advised to boil the water before using for drinking purposes.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The new Atherstone Sewage Works and the Atherstone/Mancetter pumping stations and new relief sewers, which were commenced early in 1954, were completed in 1956. This new sewage works remedies one serious point of pollution of the R. Anker.

The sewer extension connected therewith at Watling Street, Witherley, is accessible to 28 dwellings, 25 of which will have conversions from pail closets into waterclosets.

In parts of the old village of Mancetter, which has no public sewer, there are 52 dwellings discharging crude sewage liquor from cesspits into the R. Anker. In the original Atherstone/Mancetter Scheme a sewer extension for these houses was included, but was, for some reason that I do not appreciate, deleted by the Ministry. The Council, I believe, should insist on being allowed to put in this sewer extension to Mancetter forthwith.

The water of the R. Anker is heavily polluted when it reaches our District, but below Mancetter Village (the first point in our area at which it receives pollution) it does not conform in times of normal and low flow, to the chemical requirements of a sewage works effluent.

The new sewage works at Ridge Lane was brought into operation in 1956. It replaced an overworked tank and percolating bed.

The new works and sewer at Birchley Heath was virtually completed in 1956 and commenced to function in 1957, twelve years after the Council's decision to provide sewer and works, permission for which was refused until 1954.

For several years Consulting Engineers have been employed in drawing up a Scheme for new and relief sewers and new sewage works in Polesworth, Dordon, Warton and Birchmoor. In January, 1956, a Public Local Inquiry was held into the Scheme. Approval was still awaited at the end of the year.

There are no public sewerage systems in the Parishes of Caldecote, Bentley and Oldbury, which are very rural areas.

Apart from the unsatisfactory sewage works referred to above, the two works in Ansley Village, one in Hartshill, one at Grendon and one at Baddesley Ensor, are all obsolete or of insufficient capacity and need total reconstruction or replacement.

The sewage arising from dwellings in Ansley Common and part of Hartshill Parish is discharged into the sewers of the neighbouring Nuneaton Borough Council.

COLLIERY SPOIL BANKS

In my Report for 1955, I gave a resumé on spoil banks in the District, particularly dealing with the troubles associated with the heaps, both old and new, at Baddesley Colliery.

Now that the cone method of disposing of spoil on the new Baddesley bank has been abandoned and a layering and consolidating method adopted, there is no external evidence of heat or fire and there is at present complete freedom from nuisance.

The old spoil bank, which has been burning for over sixty years and which was dis-used in July, 1955, still gives off sulphurous fumes and will, no doubt, diminishingly continue to do so for several years.

HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTION

The collection of house refuse by direct labour was extended to the whole of the Rural District when the Atherstone Parish was taken over from the Contractor on the 1st July, 1956.

Five S.D. Refuse Freighters are maintained for refuse collection, two are 1947 models, and one each 1950, 1951 and 1956. Three of the vehicles are engaged for the 5½-day working week and one for 3½-days each week. The fifth is a spare vehicle, which is used when one of the others has to be taken off the road for some reason.

Collection of pail closets from 365 premises is carried out on two days each week. A 1956 Karrier fitted with a tipping tank is used for this work.

The Council does not undertake the emptying of cesspits in any part of the District. A Public Cleansing Contractor frequently comes into our area and he is generally employed by those who need cesspits cleansing.

Waste paper has not been salvaged since 1951, when mill prices were reduced and labour cost made such activity uneconomic in our rural area.

The Conditions of the West Midlands Joint Industrial Council for Manual Workers have applied here since 1949. The employees have the advantage of a Sickness Benefit Scheme and two weeks' annual paid holiday. In 1956, the Council had under consideration a Superannuation Scheme for Manual Workers. An Actuary's Report was awaited at the end of the year.

The adoption for two gangs in 1955, of a Refuse Collection Bonus Scheme, which I devised in 1951 and "plugged" from that year, and the extension of that Scheme to all employees in 1956, influenced the refuse collection service to such extent that total and aforethought reorganisation of the service was necessary. Principally arising from the success of the Scheme came:—

1. A reduction in the number of refuse collection employees from 17 to 11 (including driver-loaders), leaving one to every 2,231 of the population
2. An outstanding reduction in time lost because of medically certified illness.
3. An increase in the average number of premises cleared of refuse per man per day, from 75 day-work to 156 under bonus conditions.
4. A saving of over £1,000 on Refuse Collection Estimates which were prepared before the whole scheme was adopted.
5. A weekly and sometimes better collection through the whole area throughout the year. (Under day-pay conditions collection periods in some areas with more men on the books had in winter, in past years, deteriorated to around three weeks).
6. Dispensing with the services of a part-time Foreman, whose activities were found unnecessary in view of the working response of the collection employees.
7. The payment of wages reasonably equitable for the effort of the employees. Driver-loaders averaged £15 4s. 1d. per week and labourers £12 0s. 10d. per week.

The cost of the Sickness Benefit Scheme over the last six years has been:—

Year	£	s.	d.
1951	107	4	0
1952	166	11	2
1953	233	8	11
1954	209	16	10
1955	62	2	11
1956	71	3	6

The Bonus Scheme being adopted in 1955, for some of the employees had its influence on the amount of Sickness Benefit claimed. The increase in 1956, over the 1955 figure is well accounted for below.

In the first quarter of 1956, Non-Bonus Employees lost 11 days because of absence and 82 days for medically certified illness for which Sickness Benefit was paid. In that same quarter there was one Bonus Employee absent for one day and no illness amongst Bonus Employees for which benefit was claimed. In the other three quarters of the year, when all employees were in the Bonus Scheme, 7 days were lost for absence with permission and 9 days of medically certified illness occurred for which Sickness Benefit was paid.

From the above facts an indication of the influence of the Bonus Scheme on "illness" can be gathered, and from the Table below the new efficiency is indicated by the increase in the number of premises cleared of refuse in the year with, for the greater part, four fewer employees.

The following Table shews the numbers of premises cleared of refuse, pails, privies and dry-pits emptied per year for the last six years:—

<i>Years</i>	<i>Premises Cleared</i>	<i>Pails</i>	<i>Privies</i>	<i>Ashpits</i>
1951	140,290	20,950	25	13
1952	213,166	21,750	15	5
1953	213,498	22,476	8	5
1954	226,579	22,897	7	—
1955	253,416	23,783	6	4
1956	331,103	19,873	1	4

The net cost of the collection and disposal of refuse and night-soil was £11,387 in the year ended 31st March, 1957.

HOUSE REFUSE DISPOSAL

Refuse from the southern part of our area has been disposed of throughout the year by controlled tipping in the Clock Hill Quarry at Hartshill.

The Warton Road, Grendon, tip has been used for the disposal of refuse from the central and northern parts of the district, and a pit hole at a farm in Baxterley has been filled in.

The number of loads of refuse taken to the tips during 1956 was:—

<i>Grendon Tip</i>	<i>Hartshill Tip</i>	<i>Pit Holes</i>
1,612	1,185	211

211 loads of night-soil were disposed of into convenient sewage works in three parishes.

PUBLIC CLEANSING COSTING RETURN

(including Kitchen waste and Salvage collected separately)

Collection and Disposal of House and Trade Refuse

COST STATEMENT 1956/7

Item	Particulars	Collection £	Disposal £	Totals £	Percentage of total gross Expenditure %
Revenue Account:—					
1	Gross Expenditure :				
	(i) Labour ...	7,132	1,148	8,280	71.5
	(ii) Transport ...	2,844	—	2,844	24.6
	(iii) Plant, equipment, land & buildings	110	10	120	1.0
	(iv) Other items ...	304	26	330	2.9
	(v) Total gross expenditure	10,390	1,184	11,574	100
2	Gross Income :	—	187	187	—
3	Net Cost :	10,390	997	11,387	—
4	Capital expenditure met from revenue (included above)	—	—	—	—

UNIT COSTS:—

	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	
5	Gross cost per ton, labour only	15	10	2	6	18	4 —
6	Gross cost per ton, transport only	6	4	—		6	4 —
7	Net cost (all expenditure) per ton	23	0	2	3	25	3 —
		£		£		£	
8	Net cost per 1,000 population	423		41		464	—
9	Net cost per 1,000 premises	1,367		131		1,498	—

OPERATIONAL STATISTICS:—

10	Area (statute acres)—land and inland water ...	21,945 acres
11	Population at 30th June, 1956 (Registrar-General's Estimate) ...	24,560 persons
12	Total refuse collected (tons). Indicate whether A, E or T ...	9,025 tons E

13	Weight (cwts.) per 1,000 population per day (365 days to year)	21.1 cwts.
14	Number of premises from which refuse is collected	7,600 premises
15	Premises from which collections are made at least once weekly	100% of total
16	Average haul, single journey, to final disposal point (including NIL miles by secondary transport)	2½ miles
17	Kerbside collection expressed as estimated percentage to total collection	NIL %
18	Total refuse disposal of NIL tons were disposed of for other local authorities	9,025 tons
19	Methods of disposal (Salvage excluded):	
	(a) Crude tipping	NIL %
	(b) Controlled tipping	100 %
	(c) Direct Incineration	NIL %
	(d) Separation and incineration	NIL %
	(e) Other methods (state nature)	NIL %

20 Salvage. Analysis of income and tonnage:

	<i>Income (Included in Item 2)</i>	<i>Tonnage Collected (Included in Item 12)</i>
(a) Raw Kitchen Waste	—	—
(b) Scrap Metal	125	31
(c) Waste Paper	—	—
(d) Other Salvage	62	4
(e) Totals	<u>187</u>	<u>35</u>

21 Trade Refuse:

(a) Income	NIL
(b) Tonnage	NIL tons

22 Remarks:

Ans. 1 (iv) Col. 2 includes £240 paid to Refuse Collector Contractor.

Ans. 1 (v) includes the cost of the weekly collection of pail closets from 356 premises.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

The Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, made jointly by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Ministry of Health, under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, came into operation on the first day of January, 1955, but certain provisions of a structural nature were delayed until the first day of July, 1956.

During the second half of the year a complete re-survey of all types of food premises was commenced and, except for the fact that Licensed Premises had yet to be included, was complete by the end of 1956, 234 premises having been inspected and a total of 226 defects found.

Set out in Table A, against the different types of food premises, is the number of each in the district, and in columns 3 and 4 of that table is shown the number of premises found to be satisfactory and unsatisfactory on the first inspection. A considerable number of re-visits were made during the course of the survey, and in column 6 is shown the number of unsatisfactory premises made satisfactory before the end of 1956; actually rather more than one third of the defects had been remedied. The re-visits also indicated that a considerable amount of improvement work was ordered in accordance with the requests of this Department, and that it would be receiving early attention.

A perusal of Table B will indicate the number of each type of defect found in the various premises. It will be noted that the most common fault was the lack of a constant supply of hot water, and existed in 28.2 per cent. of all the premises inspected. Taking the different types of premises individually the prevalence of the fault varied considerably, being highest in the case of Fish Frying Premises (61.5%) and lowest in Cafes, etc. (14.3%), with Butchers' shops (53%) and Bakehouses (45%) considerably affected. In the case of Food Shops there are 35 premises where all the goods handled are pre-wrapped: in such cases the Regulations do not require a constant supply of hot water, and this leaves, therefore, 108 such premises where the item is necessary, and of these 29 (26.8%) did not have a satisfactory supply. Column 6 of the Table shows that by the end of the year nearly one-third of all the premises at fault on this score had already provided a satisfactory supply of hot water.

The condition of the walls of food premises and the storage and display of unwrapped food were two items found to be unsatisfactory in about the same number of cases (Table B lines 7 and 13).

The walls of premises were found to be unsatisfactory in 32 cases (13.7%). The old-fashioned and unsatisfactory method of cleansing food premise walls, particularly bakehouses and butcheries, by the use of lime-wash is still found in a few instances, but it has largely been replaced by the use of modern paints. However.

even painted surfaces require regular renewal, and it is worth noting that many trades are turning to the use of more modern materials such as plastics and glazed hardboards. This trend is being supported by advice from this Department as being in compliance with the requirements of Regulation 23 (a).

In 31 instances (13.2%) food was found to be stored or displayed in unsatisfactory condition and in contravention to Regulation 8. The fault was met with most commonly in small shops selling unwrapped cream cakes and cooked meats. Frequently it was found that a tray of cakes was placed, uncovered, on the counter and was open to all sorts of contamination risks. In many instances cooked meats were similarly handled. The use of glass display cabinets and plastic tray covers has been advised, and gradually all offenders are coming into line.

Table C shows the number of each type of premises Registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Premises dealing with Ice Cream and Food Preparation Premises are not shown individually in Table B because they are already included under other headings, the former with Food Shops and Cafes and the latter with Bakehouses and Butchers.

Ice Cream is manufactured at only one of the 91 premises Registered to deal in this commodity, the remaining premises only store and sell it. During the year 19 samples were taken of the ice cream manufactured in the district and all were delivered to the Public Health Laboratory at Coventry for bacteriological examination and grading. As a result 15 samples were placed in Grade 1; 3 in Grade 2; 1 in Grade 3, and none in Grade 4. This result is considered to be very satisfactory.

TABLE A

Type	No.in District	Satisfactory at 1st Inspection	Unsatisfactory at 1st Inspection	Satisfactory by end year
Provision Shops ..	143	83 58%	60 42%	105 73%
Butchers	30	13 43%	17 57%	16 53%
Bakers	20	4 20%	16 80%	7 35%
Fish Fryers	13	3 23%	10 77%	5 39%
Cafes and Canteens	28	11 40%	17 60%	11 40%
Totals	234	114 49%	120 51%	144 62%

TABLE B

DEFECTS FOUND AND REMEDIED IN FOOD PREMISES DURING 1956

Type of Defect	Defects Found				Butchers				Food Shops				Cafes etc.				Fish Frying				Totals			
	F'n'd	Rem'd	F'n'd	Rem'd	F'n'd	Rem'd	F'n'd	Rem'd	F'n'd	Rem'd	F'n'd	Rem'd	F'n'd	Rem'd	F'n'd	Rem'd	F'n'd	Rem'd	F'n'd	Rem'd	F'n'd	Rem'd	F'n'd	Rem'd
Column No. 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13												
1 No constant supply hot water	9	1	16	5	29	13	4	—	8	1	66	20	1											
2 No constant or unsuitable supply of cold water...	6	1	1	1	3	1	—	—	—	—	10	3	2											
3 Defective sinks	5	4	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—											
4 No proper sink	4	—	2	2	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—											
5 Inadequate or defective drainage system	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	2	5											
6 Inadequate or unsuitable washing facilities	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	3	—	—	5	3	6											
7 Unsatisfactory condition of walls	12	1	7	2	5	3	2	1	5	—	31	8	7											
8 Unsatisfactory condition of floors	4	2	4	1	8	5	1	—	2	—	19	9	8											
9 Unsatisfactory condition of ceilings	4	—	2	1	3	—	1	—	1	—	11	1	9											
10 Unsatisfactory condition of utensils, tables, etc.	3	—	4	1	1	1	1	—	4	2	13	4	10											
11 Unsatisfactory or defective closet accommodation	1	—	—	—	8	3	1	1	—	—	10	4	11											
12 Unsatisfactory storage and/or display of foods	1	1	—	—	25	12	5	1	—	—	31	14	12											
13 Unsatisfactory storage of refuse	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	1	13											
14 Unsatisfactory storage of fuel	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	1	14											
15 Totals	53	14	37	14	88	40	26	7	22	4	226	79	15											

TABLE C

REGISTRATIONS UNDER SECTION 16 FOOD AND DRUGS
ACT, 1955

Fish Frying Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	91
Food Preparation Premises	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	47
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	151

OTHER FOODSTUFFS CONDEMNED DURING 1956

		Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
514	Tins Milk, Fish, Fruit and Vegetables	4	3	26
4	Tins Cooked Ham		1	14
22	Tins Corned Beef		2	6
22	Tins Various Meats		1	4
—	Sausages		1	26
—	Biscuits			13
—	Cheese			8
—	Jam			3
		6	3	14

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES

Seven slaughter-houses were licensed for the year 1956. Three in the northerly parts of the District and two each in the central and southerly areas.

The following Table shews the number of animals dealt with in these slaughter-houses during the year. It will be seen that two of the slaughter-houses in the northerly part were not used during the year, whilst the other was used only for the slaughter of one casualty cow.

At the "No. 1 Central" Slaughter-house, the slaughtering of animals is carried on every day every week, including Sundays. The premises are owned and occupied by a wholesale butcher. All animals slaughtered are inspected by your Public Health Staff and the service operates on Sundays.

The standards of cleanliness are very satisfactory in all the licensed slaughter-houses.

Slaughter-houses	Cattle excl.			Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
	Cows	Cows	Calves		
No. 1 Central	1,736	60	315	3,342	4,351
No. 2 "	339	25	10	1,002	1,080
No. 1 North	—	—	—	—	1
No. 2 "	—	—	—	—	—
No. 3 "	—	—	—	—	—
No. 1 South	157	3	5	121	146
No. 2 "	108	—	5	422	211
	2,340	88	335	4,887	5,789

PIGS—DEADWEIGHT CERTIFICATION

There are three slaughter-houses in the District which are approved as Deadweight Certification Centres.

Your two Additional Public Health Inspectors and myself are appointed Certifying Officers for the Ministry of Food.

During 1956, 3,122 pigs were certified for deadweight subsidy payments, as against 1,509 in 1955. £104 19s. 4d. which was paid for this work by the Ministry was posted to the General Rate Fund.

MEAT INSPECTION

The following Table shews the numbers of animals slaughtered and inspected and affected with diseases which necessitated condemnation of carcasses or parts of carcasses and of organs. The bracketed figures apply to the year 1955.

Details	Cows	Cattle excl. Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (all inspected)	88 (155)	2,340 (2,215)	335 (87)	4,887 (5,025)	5,789 (5,818)
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS.					
Whole carcasses condemned	1 (3)	— (1)	2 (—)	2 (2)	2 (5)
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	23 (46)	596 (607)	2 (1)	7 (22)	771 (724)
Percentage affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis	27.27 (31.6)	25.38 (27.4)	1.19 (1.2)	0.18 (0.5)	13.35 (12.3)
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY					
Whole carcasses condemned	4 (2)	1 (2)	— (3)	— (—)	4 (2)
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	21 (35)	207 (229)	— (—)	— (—)	147 (153)
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis	28.41 (23.8)	8.89 (10.5)	— (3.4)	— (—)	2.61 (2.7)
CYSTICERCOSIS					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	— (—)	4 (2)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	— (—)	4 (2)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Generalised and totally condemned	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)

The annual reduction in the percentage of steers and heifers found to be infected with tuberculosis is worthy of comment. In 1954, 19.9% were found to have tuberculous infection; in 1955 there was a fall to 10.5%, whilst in the year under review 8.89% results. Percentages of diseases other than tuberculosis in food animals tend to maintain constant figures.

Only four oxen (two in 1955) were found to carry the larval stage cysts of the tapeworm, *taenia saginata* of man. In two of the cases only one cyst was in the outer masseter muscles, and in the other two cases one cyst only was found in heart musculature. Other sites of predilection were thoroughly searched in all cases, but without result.

FRESH MEAT, QUANTITY CONDEMNED, 1956

Detail	Tons	Cwts	Qrs	Lbs
DUE TO DISEASES OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS				
Carcases parts and organs of Oxen	3	11	0	25
Carcases parts and organs of Sheep		1	2	25
Carcases parts and organs of Pigs		10	3	4
DUE TO TUBERCULOSIS ONLY				
Carcases parts and organs of Oxen	5	16	0	12
Carcases parts and organs of Pigs		17	3	23
Total	10	17	2	24

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933—1954

For 1957, 32 slaughtermen's licences have been renewed and 1 new licence has been issued.

MILK SUPPLIES AND DAIRIES

Our Register under the Acts and Regulations contains the following:—

Milk Distributors	22
Dairies	8
Supplementary Pasteurised Licences	3
Supplementary Tuberculin Tested Licences	3
Dealers' Pasteurised Licences	16
Dealers' Sterilised Licences	6
Dealers' Tuberculin Tested Licences	8

Distributors are generally found to keep their dairies and utensils in clean and satisfactory condition.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food is responsible for the administration of laws and regulations governing the production of milk at farms.

We have duties in connection with the distribution of milk and distributors' dairies, other than those at farms, and the use of measures to protect the public against the sale of milk which might cause disease.

During 1956, the County Health Department submitted six Tuberculin Tested and fifty-four Ungraded milks for biological examinations and, arising from these, four ungraded milks were found to contain living tubercle bacilli. In all cases the milk was being sold to Dairying firms at whose premises it was

pasteurised before sale for human consumption. As required by the 1949 Regulations, notice restricting the supply of infected milk was served in each case.

WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SAMPLING OFFICER UNDER THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Mr. J. S. Preston, Chief Inspector, Weights and Measures Department, Warwickshire County Council, has sent a Report on his activities in our Area during 1956. I would commend his following Report to your notice.

REPORT.	No. of Samples.	No. unsatisfactory.
Ammoniated tincture of quinine ...	1	—
Blackcurrant fruit preserve	1	—
Borax	1	—
Brimstone and treacle	1	1
Butter	4	—
Cake mix	1	—
Calcium lactate	1	—
Chicken meat paste	1	1
Cider vinegar	1	—
Cream	4	—
Diabetic marmalade	1	—
Embrocation	1	—
Formamint tablets	1	—
Gin	2	—
Glauber's salt	1	1
Glucose	1	—
Jam	1	—
Malt vinegar	1	—
Margarine	3	—
Milk	65	4
Mineral vitamin tablets	1	—
Myrrh and borax	3	3
Raspberry vinegar	1	—
Sausage products	4	1
Smelling salts	1	1
Spirit of sal volatile	2	1
Stewed steak	1	—
Sulphur tablets	1	—
Synthetic cream	1	1
Tincture of iodine	4	3
Tonic tablets	1	—
Yeast tablets	3	2
Totals ...	116	19

With regard to the unsatisfactory milk samples, one of these proved to be suspicious of slight adulteration with added water, whilst the remaining three were deficient of fat, two by 5% and one by 3%.

The first sample was from a bottle containing pasteurised milk which had been processed on the premises of the vendors, a firm of dairymen, who received supplies from ten different farms. In view of the indication of water in the sample, formal and informal checks were subsequently made of the milk received at the dairy, but all of this proved to be free from added water, although samples from three churns were unsatisfactory, due to relatively small fat deficiencies. In two of these cases, the discrepancies were not of any consequence since the milk formed a small part of the total consignment from each of the producers concerned, the average fat content being well up to standard. The effect of the deficiency in the remaining sample was also reduced by virtue of the fat content of the milk in a second churn from the same vendor, being satisfactory.

The particulars relative to the unsatisfactory samples other than milk are, as follows:—

(1) *Beef sausage meat*: The meat content of this sample was satisfactory although the presence of preservative (122 parts per million of sulphur dioxide) was not declared by notice at the vendor's premises, as required by the Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations. Sausage products are permitted to contain up to 450 parts per million of sulphur dioxide, provided that the required notification is given to purchasers. The attention of the butcher concerned was drawn to this matter.

(2) *Brimstone and treacle*: The excess of sulphur in this product namely 12.5%, was not in any way detrimental, but the amount present did not conform to the quantity stated on the label. The result was reported to the vendor.

(3) *Chicken meat paste*: This article was described in a manner which was regarded as misleading. The name "chicken" appeared in red letters against a yellow background, whereas the word "paste" was printed in pale coloured letters which were barely distinguishable from their background. The matter was referred to the manufacturers and to the officer in whose area their premises are situated and, as a result, the labels were suitably amended.

(4) *Glauber's salt*: According to the British Pharmacopoeia, Glauber's salt, when dried at a constant temperature of 105°C. should lose not less than 51.5% or more than 57% of its weight. This particular sample, which was obtained from a retail chemist, was deficient of moisture, the loss of weight, when dried, being 40.7%. The result was referred to the vendor and a subsequent check has been made, the article being satisfactory

(5) *Myrrh and borax*: Three informal samples of this product were found to be unsatisfactory. One sample proved to contain only 3.33% of glycerine, whereas, according to the British Pharmaceutical Codex, of 1949, it should have contained not less than 6.2%. This matter was referred to the manufacturer of the product and further checks will be made from time to time. The remaining two samples were found to be deficient of 50% and 78% respectively of borax. Official samples were subsequently procured, from another area, and these also proved to be unsatisfactory. The results were reported to the two manufacturers responsible and, in one case, the packers stated that a defect had been found in their method of preparation of the product and that they had changed the procedure in order to avoid any question of complaint in the future. The remaining manufacturer had a separate analysis made of the retailer's part of the official sample, which, incidentally, confirmed the original result and, following this, the firm gave an undertaking that every effort would be made to prevent any further discrepancy arising. Both of the companies concerned are well-known as reputable manufacturing chemists and, in the circumstances, it was not considered necessary to take any further action.

(6) *Smelling salts*: This sample, which was taken informally, was found to be deficient of 14.2% of phenol. Subsequent official samples have proved to be satisfactory.

(7) *Synthetic cream*: This article was found to contain dulcin, which is not permitted to be included in food as a sweetening substance, and the attention of the vendor was, therefore, drawn to this matter.

(3) *Spirit of sal volatile*—deficient of 39% ammonia.

Tincture of iodine (decoloured)—deficient of 27.14% ammonia.

Tincture of iodine—deficient of 50% ammonia.

Tincture of iodine contained an excess of 4.3% iodine and 5.9% potassium iodine.

The above four samples were obtained from a firm of druggists, who were receiving their supplies, already packed for retail sale, from various manufacturing chemists. The discrepancies in the products could well have been caused by unduly prolonged or unsatisfactory conditions of storage. Several other drugs and medical preparations, sold at the premises in question, were checked and were found to be satisfactory. The complaints were the first involving the particular vendor, although samples of various commodities have been submitted for analysis on several previous occasions. In the circumstances, the retailer was cautioned. On behalf of the firm, the manager undertook to change the system of ordering supplies which were subject to deterioration, so that such products would not in the future remain in stock for any length of time.

(9) *Yeast tablets*: An informal sample of this product was found to be deficient of 29.6% of aneurine hydrochloride, whilst an official sample of a similar product was stated to contain 25 milligrammes of Vitamin B.1, whereas the actual amount found was only 21 milligrammes per tablet. These matters were referred to the manufacturers concerned.

Although no samples of ice cream or soft drinks were procured within the district, all the suppliers were checked in neighbouring areas. It will be appreciated that there are relatively few manufacturers of ice cream now in operation. Miscellaneous foods from manufacturers outside the Atherstone district were also sampled in other parts of the County and, although these are not referred to in the foregoing list, they can be regarded as effective checks of similar products sold within the district. This applies particularly to pre-packed foods and drugs, which now form a very high proportion of the articles sold in retail shops, and additional sampling in each of the county districts tends merely towards duplication without any additional safeguard being afforded. These remarks are also applicable to most of the milk now sold, by retail, in the Atherstone district, since much of this is subject to checks in neighbouring areas.

In addition to the actual samples submitted for analysis, to which the foregoing list is restricted, widespread examination of foods and drugs, particularly those of the pre-packed variety, with regard to their condition and the requirements of the Labelling of Food Order, is regularly carried out in conjunction with visits to shops or other premises in connection with duties under the Weights and Measures Acts.

J. S. PRESTON,

Chief Sampling Officer.

FACTORIES

There were 126 Factories on the Register at the end of the year, 51 of these, mainly building sites, being temporary entries. Of the 75 permanent factories all except 4 employ mechanical power. The number of visits made to the factories, and the defects found and remedied, are tabulated in the tables set out below.

The 30 outworkers listed in the August returns, required by Section 110 of the Factories Act, 1937, were employed in the making of wearing apparel.

Under Section 34 of the Act the Council is responsible for issuing, to certain factories, Certificates of Adequate Means of Escape in Case of Fire. The certificates in force are checked during visits to the factories and when necessary they are amended or renewed. During the year 1 Certificate was issued in respect of a new factory and 3 Certificates were suitably amended.

TABLE 1

	No. on Reg.	Inspec- tions	Written Notices	Prosecu- tions
(i) Factories where Sec. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 enforced by L.A.	4	1	—	—
(ii) Factories where Sec. 7 only enforced by L.A.	71	53	4	—
(iii) Other factories where Section 7 enforced by L. A. (Building sites etc.	51	43	—	—
Totals	126	97	4	—

TABLE 2

	Defects Found	Defects Remedied
Unsatisfactory Means of Fire Escape	1	1
Want of cleanliness (S1)	—	—
Overcrowding (S2)	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S3)	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S4)	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S6)	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S7)	—	—
(a) Insufficient	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	6	6
(c) No separate for sexes	—	—
(d) Other offences against the Act	3	3

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Enquiries are made into notified cases of infectious diseases and disinfections of houses, bedding and clothing are carried out when necessary.

Free supply of disinfectant for prophylatic measures in houses where infectious disease exist is carried out from six premises in various parts of the District and from the Public Health Department.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

There are no premises in the district where offensive trades are carried on.

CANAL BOATS

Occasional visits are paid to the docks and wharves.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

The Byelaws made under the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936, restrict the emission of black smoke to two minutes in any period of thirty minutes.

Casual observations on all factory chimneys are made during routine work and visits ; timed observations being carried out whenever casual observations indicated possible infringement of the Byelaws.

Eleven timed observations were made during the year on five factory chimneys.

The results of the observations are given below. Managements and stokers were seen and advised when necessary. The infringements were not serious and no legal proceedings were taken.

Factory	MINUTES OF SMOKE				Total
	Obs. 1956 No.	Black	Moderate	None or Slight	
No. 1	2	—	8½	21½	30
	5	—	30	—	30
No. 2	3	¾	8¼	51	60
	10	1	2¾	26¼	30
No. 3	1	8	16	36	60
	5	2¾	11¼	16	30
	7	—	17	13	30
	8	4¾	10	15¼	30
	11	4½	9¼	16¼	30
No. 4	6	2	18¾	9¼	30
No. 5	9	—	2½	17½	30

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION

On this service, a report was made to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for the year ended 31st March, 1957, and it is convenient to deal with this subject in this Report for the year ending on that date.

After the Council's full-time Rodent Operative entered hospital in 1955, and unfortunately did not recover sufficiently to return to his duties, we carried on a limited and unsatisfactory service with a part-time employee, until the end of 1956.

In October, 1956, I made a report to the Council which suggested the appointment of a new full-time Rodent Operative, the taking out of annual contracts for rat destruction with farmers and other business undertakings and coverage of the whole of the rural district by the Council's employee.

The Warwickshire Agriculture Executive Committee's Pest Department had, at that time, some forty-four rat destruction contracts with farmers in our area.

By January 1st, 1957, an experienced Rodent Operative had been appointed, provided with a new light motor van, and the Council's service then began to function.

Almost all the work listed in the following Table had been carried out by the new rodent operative by the end of March, 1957, and he had arranged thirty contracts with an annual value of £277 4s. 0d. In these Contracts the Council undertakes initial disinfection of the premises and thereafter monthly visits, inspections and treatments if necessary.

As a result of the success of the Council's operations, the Warwickshire Agriculture Executive Committee has decided not to renew any contracts now held by them in our area.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

Report for 12 months ended 31st March, 1957

	(1) Local Auth- ority	(2) Dwelling Houses inc. Council Houses	(3) All other (including Business Premises	(4) Total of Col.(1) (2)&(3)	(5) Agri- cul. tural
I. Number of properties in local authority's district	23	7,147	190	7,360	157
II. Number of properties inspected as a result of:					
(a) Notification	—	20	6	26	—
(b) Survey under the Act	23	146	9	178	37
(c) Otherwise (e.g., when visited primarily for some other purpose	—	5	34	39	—
III. Total inspections carried out—including re-inspections. (To be completed only if figures are readily available)	—	—	—	—	—
IV. Number of properties inspected (in Sect.II) which were found to be infested by:					
Major	—	—	—	—	—
(a) Rats Minor	17	101	9	127	24
Major	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Mice Minor	—	2	5	7	—
V. Number of infested properties (in Sect. IV) treated by the L.A.(Figures should NOT exceed those given at Sect. IV)	17	103	12	132	21
VI. Total treatments carried out—including re-treatments.(To be completed only if figures are readily available)	56	312	34	402	73
VII. Number of notices served under Sect.4 of the Act:					
(a) Treatment	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Structural Work (i.g. Proofing)	—	—	—	—	—
VIII. Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Sect. 4 of the Act	—	—	—	—	—
IX. Legal Proceedings..	—	—	—	—	—
X. Number of "Block" control schemes carried out	—	—	—	—	—

WORKS DONE AT PRIVATE PREMISES BY OWNERS DURING
THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1956, FOLLOWING
INFORMAL AND STATUTORY ACTION BY THE PUBLIC
HEALTH INSPECTORS.

EXTERNAL

HOUSING.

Walls—

Raked and repointed or rendered	25
Damp proofing of walls	12
Open areas constructed	1
Sub-floor ventilation provided or increased	—

Roofs—

Stripped and re-slatted or re-tiled	3
Repaired and made weatherproof	18

Gutterings—

Repaired and/or new provided and fixed	23
--	----

Downspouts—

Repaired and/or new provided and fixed	13
--	----

Chimney Stacks—

Wholly or in part taken down and re-built	9
Raked and re-pointed	3

Yards, Courts and Passages—

Taken up and re-laid or concreted	5
-----------------------------------	---

Water Supply—

Laid on into houses	4
Standpipes dis-used	2
Wells dis-used	—
New pumps provided to wells, or repaired	2
Bursts repaired	19

Drainage—

New lengths drain and/or drainage system provided	9
Defective drains re-laid	3
New inspection chambers constructed	6
Defective inspection chamber covers replaced	2
Ventilation shafts repaired	2
Cesspools cleansed	12
Obstructed drains released	25
Septic tanks or percolating beds built or improved	—

Closet Accommodation—

New W.C. compartments built	8
New pedestals fixed	13
Conversion to W.C.s	4
W.C. cisterns repaired and/or new provided	15
Miscellaneous repairs to closet compartments	10

Washing Accommodation—

New wash-house built	3
Dilapidated copper repaired	6

Ashes Accommodation—

New dust bins provided to Private Houses	259
New dust bins provided to Council Houses	309

INTERNAL

Walls—									
Totally or in part re-plastered	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Ceilings—									
Totally or in part re-plastered	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Windows—									
Defective frames repaired or replaced	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Windows re-corded	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Doors—									
Repaired, replaced and/or weather boards fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Floors—									
Boarded floors replaced and/or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Defective skirtings replaced	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Solid floor re-laid	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Staircases—									
Woodwork repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Fire Ranges and Grates—									
Repaired and/or new fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Sinks—									
New sinks provided and fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
New wastes fitted or existing repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Pantry—									
New provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Bathrooms—									
New provided with H & C	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

FOOD PREPARING PREMISES AND SHOPS

Walls, ceilings, floors, windows, doors and utensils fittings, etc., cleansed, repaired or renewed	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
New making-up rooms provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Sinks, basins, soaps, towels, hot and cold water provided or arrangements improved	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
New sanitary accommodation provided or existing improved	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Other miscellaneous matters	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16

LICENSED PREMISES

Bar Sink/s and hot water provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Improved sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
New sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

MISCELLANEOUS

Rat infested premises cleared by Rodent Operative	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	153
Offensive accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Keeping of animals nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Other nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

